

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Final Office Action of April 6, 2004. Applicants respectfully request entry of these amendments and allowance of all claims 1-6, 8, 9, 11-27, and 29-35 as set forth herein.

The Office Action

The status of the claims in the Final Office Action of April 6, 2004:

Claims 1, 3, 7, 14, and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kessener et al., US Patent No. 4, 901, 922.

Claims 2, 4-6, 8-13, 15, and 17-20 are indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

Claims 21-27 and 29-35 are allowed.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of canceled claim 10

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of canceled claim 10. As no new search is required, Applicants respectfully ask for entry of this amendment. Moreover, as claim 1 now contains the allowable subject matter of canceled claim 10, Applicants submit that claim 1 as well as claims 3, 14, and 16 that depend therefrom, are fully in condition for allowance, and ask for allowance of claims 1, 3, 14, and 16 as set forth herein.

Claim 2, which was indicated as containing allowable subject matter, has been placed into independent form

Claim 2, which was indicated in the Office Action as containing allowable subject matter, has been placed into independent form incorporating all limitations of base claim 1. Claim 4 has been amended to depend from now-independent claim 2. As no new search is required, Applicants respectfully ask for entry of these amendments, and ask for allowance of claims 2 and 4 as set forth herein.

Claim 5, which was indicated as containing allowable subject matter, has been placed into independent form

Claim 5, which was indicated in the Office Action as containing allowable subject matter, has been placed into independent form incorporating all limitations of base claim 1. Claim 6 retains its dependency from claim 5. As no new search is required, Applicants respectfully ask for entry of these amendments, and ask for allowance of claims 5 and 6 as set forth herein.

Claim 8, which was indicated as containing allowable subject matter, has been placed into independent form

Claim 8, which was indicated in the Office Action as containing allowable subject matter, has been placed into independent form incorporating all limitations of base claim 1 and of canceled base claim 7. Claim 9 retains its dependency from claim 8. As no new search is required, Applicants respectfully ask for entry of these amendments, and ask for allowance of claims 8 and 9 as set forth herein.

Claim 11, which was indicated as containing allowable subject matter, has been placed into independent form

Claim 11, which was indicated in the Office Action as containing allowable subject matter, has been placed into independent form incorporating all limitations of base claim 1. Claim 12 and 13 retain dependency from claim 11. As no new search is required, Applicants respectfully ask for entry of these amendments, and ask for allowance of claims 11-13 as set forth herein.

Claims 15, 17, 18, and 19, which were indicated as containing allowable subject matter, have been placed into independent form

Claims 15, 17, 18, and 19, each of which were indicated in the Office Action as containing allowable subject matter, have each been placed into independent form incorporating all limitations of base claim 1. Claim 20 retains its dependency from claim 19. As no new search is required, Applicants respectfully ask for entry of these amendments, and ask for allowance of claim 15 and 17-20 as set forth herein.

CONCLUSION


As the amendments set forth herein require no new searching and are believed to place the application into condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that these amendments be entered, and that claims 1-6, 8, 9, 11-27, and 29-35 be allowed.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is hereby authorized to telephone Scott McCollister, at (216) 861-5582.

Respectfully submitted,

FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN,
MINNICH & MCKEE, LLP

June 3, 2004
Date

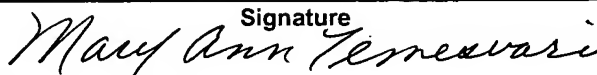

Robert M. Sieg, Reg. No. 54,446
Scott A. McCollister, Reg. No. 33,961
1100 Superior Avenue
7th Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-2579
(216) 861-5582

Certificate of Mailing

Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8, I certify that this **Amendment B** is being

- ☒ deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail, addressed to: MAIL STOP AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.
- ☐ transmitted via facsimile in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.8 on the date indicated below.
- ☐ deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated below and is addressed to: MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date
June 3, 2004

Signature

Mary Ann Temesvari